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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (1):

wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, C_1 to C_5 alkyl, C_1 to C_5 mono or dihydroxyalkyl, and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with a hydroxyl, amino or C_1 to C_3 alkoxy group, and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1 to C_5 mono or dihydroxyalkyl, and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with a hydroxyl or amino group.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a C_1 to C_3 alkyl group, and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with an alkoxy group, and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of phenyl and benzyl.

Claim 3 (Original) A compound of Claim 2 wherein R₁ is hydrogen and R₂ is phenyl.

Claims 4-6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1) of Claim 1 comprising (a) reacting 2,6-dimethoxy-benzaldehyde of formula (2)

with a reagent of the formula R_1R_2NH and a reductive amination reducing agent to produce a compound of formula (3)

and (b) deprotecting the compound of formula (3) by reacting with a deprotection agent producing a compound of formula (1):

HO
$$\begin{array}{c}
R_1 \\
N \longrightarrow R_2 \\
OH
\end{array}$$

wherein R₁ and R₂ are as defined in Claim 1.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 7 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a C_1 to C_3 alkyl group, and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with an alkoxy group, and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of a phenyl and benzyl.

Claim 9 (Original) A process according to Claim 7 wherein R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is phenyl.

Claims 10-24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Previously Presented) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-phenylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;

2-(pyridin-3-yl-aminomethyl)-benzene-1,3-diol;

2-dimethylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;

2-dihydroxyethylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;

2-hydroxymethylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;

2-benzylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;

2-aminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol; and

2-(2-methoxy)phenylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol.

Claim 26 (New). A hair dyeing composition comprising, in a suitable carrier or vehicle, an effective hair dyeing amount of:

- (A) at least one primary intermediate, and
- (B) at least one coupler comprising a compound of the formula (1):

wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, C_1 to C_5 alkyl, C_1 to C_5 mono or dihydroxyalkyl, and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with a hydroxyl, amino or C_1 to C_3 alkoxy group, and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1 to C_5

mono or dihydroxyalkyl, and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with a hydroxyl or amino group.